

Odom, Davis & Hobson

440 Louisiana Street, Suite 200
Houston, Texas 77002

2023

ODH LAW FIRM SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

ODH Law Essay Prompt for 2023

Welcome to the ODH Law Firm Scholarship Essay Contest for 2023. The winner of the contest will receive a scholarship of \$1,000 that will be submitted to their college or university of enrollment for any eligible education expenses, including tuition.

Our goal is to provide relief for college students making their way through advanced education, while hopefully, sparking creative thought on topics relevant to criminal law. The goal of any essay contest is to write a clear, concise essay that stands out from the pack. The lawyers reviewing these essays will remember those entries which think outside the box or provide interesting viewpoints on the topic.

The following are some useful hints:

- Outline your response before beginning to write the essay. Take time to really let the question sink in before attempting to formulate a response.
- More is not always better. The essay should be 750 words or less. A great essay can be written within the word limit.
- Citing sources is always a good idea. It lets the judges know you put the effort into understanding the topic.
- Proofread your work. Essays with bad grammar have no chance against an essay without that issue.
- Think outside the box. Many essays will follow the same thought process. An intelligent response off the normal path can create separation.

The Fall 2023 Prompt

The death penalty is the ultimate sentence. Death penalty statutes allow the state to order the execution of criminal defendants charged with the most heinous offenses. Death penalty supporters often cite the horrific crimes of conviction as support for this extraordinary step. Death penalty opponents do not see the role of this sentence in an advanced society. In 750 words, take a position for or against the death penalty. Argue why the death penalty is an appropriate sentence for certain defendants or why it should be phased out of our justice system.

Some helpful areas to trigger thought:

- Exonerations
- Religious Beliefs
- Deterrence
- Monetary Costs to Society